

REMARKS

Claims 21-22, 25-26, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 23-24, 27-28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to any of the subject matter contained therein.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the rejected claims have already been searched and now depend from an allowable claim; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because e.g. they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Baldwin during the telephonic interview held September 28, 2007 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Applicants thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39 contains allowable subject matter. As discussed during the August 30, 2007 interview and described in the Amendment After Final Rejection filed September 14, 2007, the objection to claim 21 does not require any amendment because the first time the terms "inflow end part side" and "outflow end part side" appear in this claim, the terms are preceded by the article "an." Thus, the objection is moot.

Claims 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ito, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0003728, now U.S. Patent No. 6,596,372. Applicants continue to traverse this rejection. However, claim 23 and its dependent claims

have been canceled to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to continue prosecution of these claims in a continuing application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:LES/ccs

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: October 17, 2007

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